

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

EUXESTA MAZORCA, NEW SPECIES, ASSOCIATED
WITH EARS OF MAIZE IN SOUTH AMERICA
(DIPTERA, OTITIDAE)

BY GEORGE C. STEYSKAL

*Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agr. Res. Serv.,
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*¹

Specimens of a species of *Euxesta* have been received on a few occasions from Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru accompanied with the notation that they were in some manner associated with ears of corn (maize, *Zea mays* Linnaeus), although exact data concerning their relations with the plant are not available. A few specimens of the species have been in the United States National Museum collection for many years determined as *Euxesta obliquestriata* Hendel, which was described from Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia. The species herein described, however, differs in several ways from Hendel's description and figure.

***Euxesta mazorca*, new species**

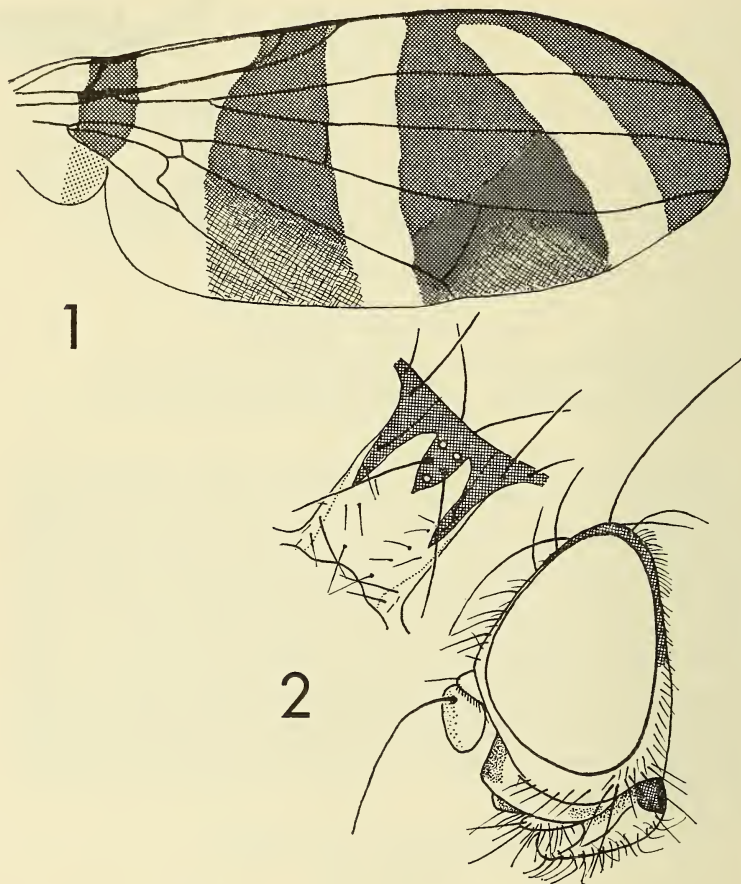
Figures 1-2

Male and female. Length of wing 4-0—4.83 mm. Agrees with *E. obliquestriata* Hendel in basic pattern of wing, interantennal space of same color as lower parts of face (not dull black), wholly dark metallic blue-green abdomen, and largely black legs.

Head as in Fig. 2; largely yellowish, metallic greenish on frontal triangle, parafrontal plates, vertex, and occiput; middle of face and sides of clypeus infuscated to variable extent; antenna usually wholly orange, but 3rd segment sometimes a little infuscated above; front largely almost polished, narrow orbits silvery tomentose.

Thorax wholly metallic greenish, mesoscutum lightly pale grayish tomentose with indistinct more blackish arcuate postsutural transverse band, especially evident above wing bases; scutellum blackish. Angle

¹ Mail address: c/o U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. 20560.



FIGS. 1-2, *Euxesta mazorca*, new species: 1. wing; 2. lateral view, head of holotype, with anterodorsal view of front.

between line connecting posterior dorsocentrals bristles and each acrostichal bristle 45° .

Legs largely metallic greenish; forecoxa (except basilateral oval dark spot), most of inner face of forefemur, fore- and midbasitarsi, hindbasitarsus (except more or less of tip), and distal end of forefemur tawny.

Wing as in Fig. 1; medial hyaline band attaining costa in nearly full width, impinging on only small apical part of 1st vein (R_1); preapical hyaline band somewhat narrower than apical brown band; section of 4th vein crossing preapical hyaline band about equal in length to apical section in brown area; length of apical brown area in discal cell less

than half as great on 5th vein as on 4th vein; brown area in base of 2nd costal cell squarish, not extended along costa; extension of tip of anal cell about as long as greatest width of cell.

Abdomen wholly metallic bluish green, very lightly pale tomentose.

Holotype ♀, allotype, and 1 ♀ and 3 ♂ paratypes, ECUADOR: Quito, Estación Experimental Santa Cataline, August, 1966, feeding on corn ear (V. Vazquez), No. 72830 in United States National Museum. Also examined: ECUADOR: 1 ♀, 1 sex ? (head and abdomen missing), Azogues; 3 ♀, 1 ♂, Paute [Cañar Province, near Azogues], 18 June 1959, in corn buds (G. Merino); COLOMBIA: 1 ♀, 3 ♂, Obonuco, 16 January 1973, mazorca choclo [= green ear of corn] (B. Yanguatin); 1 ♂, Sonson, Antioquia, 16 November 1955, 2500 meters, *Solanum andigenum* (L. Posada); PERU: 1 sex ? (abdomen missing), Ajipampa, Cajamarca, El Chota mountain, 1800 meters, 29 January 1968, trap with hydrolyzed protein (B. G. Casanova C.); 1 ♀, Huadquiña, Cuzco [at base of Cerro Macchupicchu], 5000 meters, 30 July 1911. All specimens are in the United States National Museum collection.

The species-name is an American Spanish word for "ear of maize," treated as Latin and used as a noun in apposition.

